



Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona
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PRESS RELEASE

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For Information Contact Public Affairs
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TUBA CITY MEN PLEAD GUILTY TO BRUTAL ASSAULT

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- VENSON H. DESCHINE, 21, of Tuba City, Arizona pleaded guilty today to one count of Assault Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury. In connection with this case, on May 27, 1999, **DUSHANE FRED**, 19, of Tuba City, Arizona, pleaded guilty to one count of Assault Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury.

The defendants admitted that on November 6, 1997, they had a dispute with the victim, Lawrence Honeyestewa, over alcohol. As a result of the dispute, Deschine and Fred beat Lawrence Honeyestewa with their fists, until he became incapacitated. The two defendants carried Mr. Honeyestewa to a nearby field, where they proceeded to beat him further. Next, the defendants picked up the empty 40 ounce bottles of beer they had been drinking and threw them at the victim's head. At Dushane Fred's suggestion, the defendants swept the area around the body with a tree branch, stole Lawrence Honeyestewa's shoes, and left. On November 8, 1997, Lawrence Honeyestewa's body was found in a vacant field approximately 50 feet from where he had been beaten.

The defendants were initially charged with Second Degree Murder however, the medical experts were unable to verify that, beyond a reasonable doubt, the victim's death was a direct result of the assault.

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Venson Deschine's sentencing is scheduled for April 3, 2000. Dushane Fred is scheduled for sentencing on March 20, 2000. The maximum possible sentence, for each defendant, is ten years imprisonment.

The investigation that led to the successful prosecution of this case was conducted by the Navajo Department of Law Enforcement and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-99-407-PCT-EHC
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